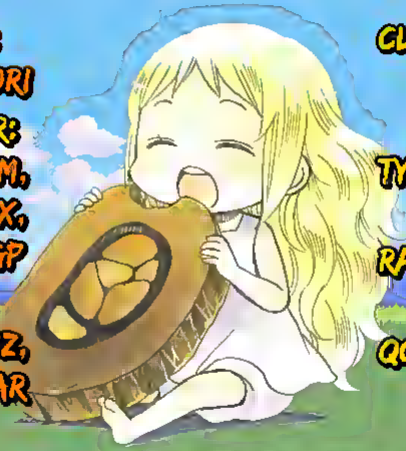
Hayachine

Chapter 16

By
Fukumorita Aiko



TRANSLATOR: SHIRATORI

PROOFREADER: VOLANDUM, MEGAMANX, TGP

REDRAWS: PAWNZ, MESDAGAR

CLEANER: MESDAGAR, PAWNZ

TYPESETTING: MESDAGAR

RAWS: SHIRATORI

QC: SHIRATORI

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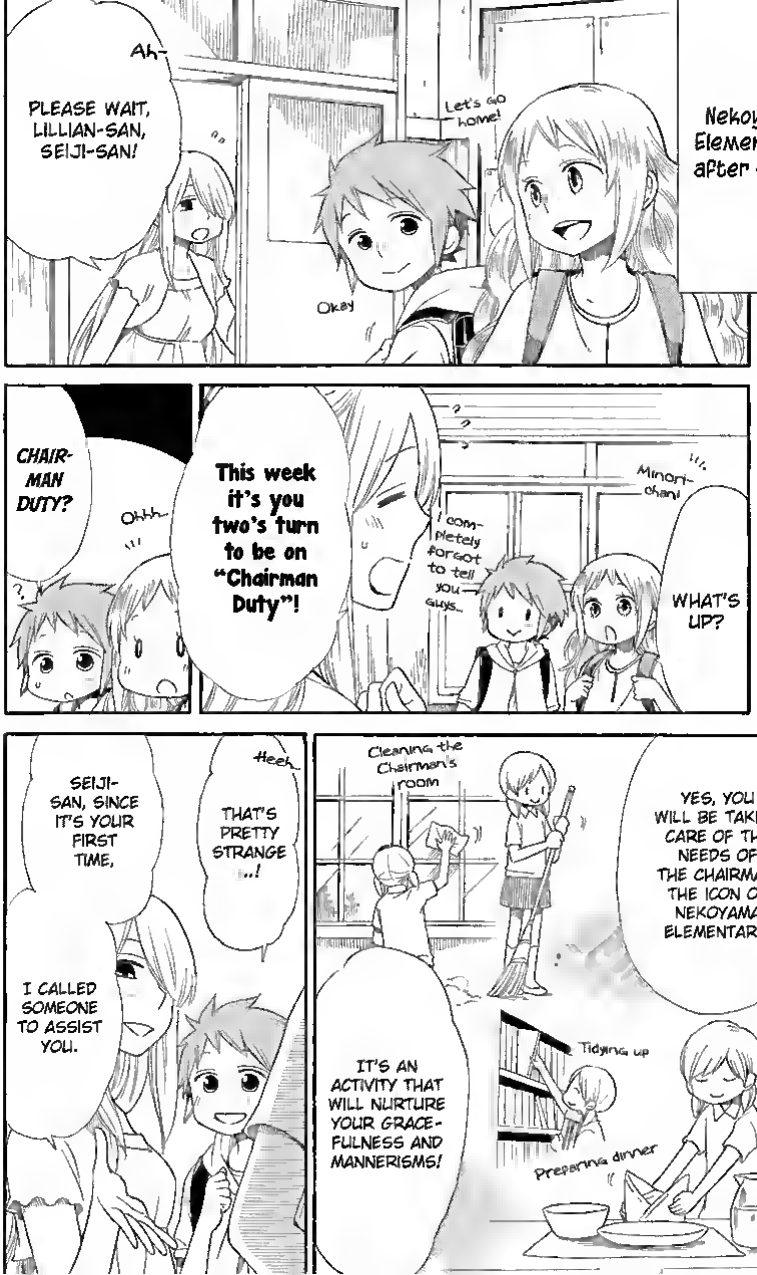
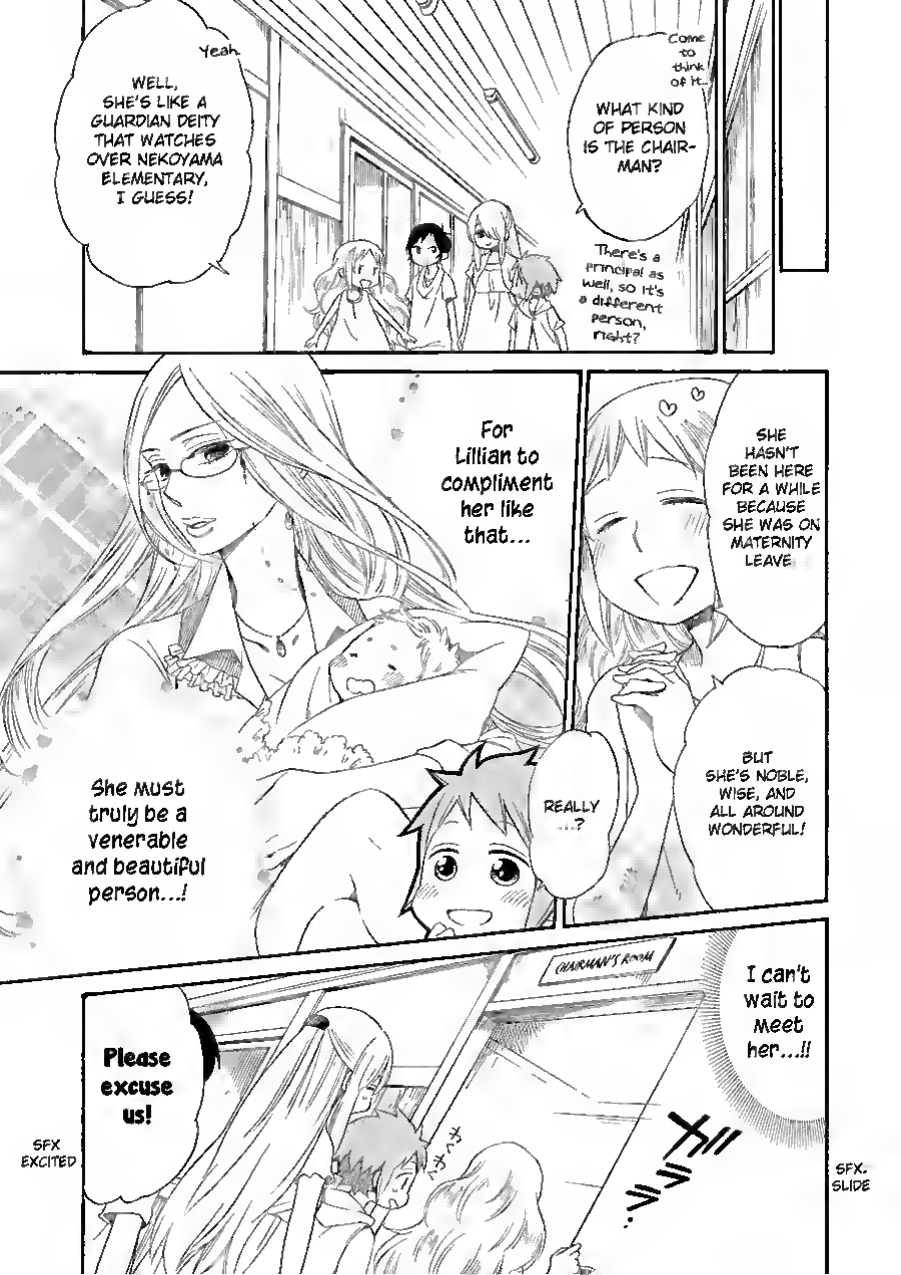
Chapter 16: This Week's Duty


Nekoyama Elementary, after school
Ah-
PLEASE WAIT, LILLIAN-SAN, SEIJI-SAN!
Let's go home!
Okay
CHAIR-MAN DUTY?
Ohhh
This week it's you two's turn to be on "Chairman Duty"!
I com-pletely forgot to tell you guys.
Minori-chan!
WHAT'S UP?
SEIJI-SAN, SINCE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME,
I CALLED SOMEONE TO ASSIST YOU.
Heeh
THAT'S PRETTY STRANGE ..!
Cleaning the Chairman's room
YES, YOU WILL BE TAKING CARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE ICON OF NEKOYAMA ELEMENTARY.
IT'S AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL NURTURE YOUR GRACE-FULNESS AND MANNERISMS!
Tidying up
Preparing dinner

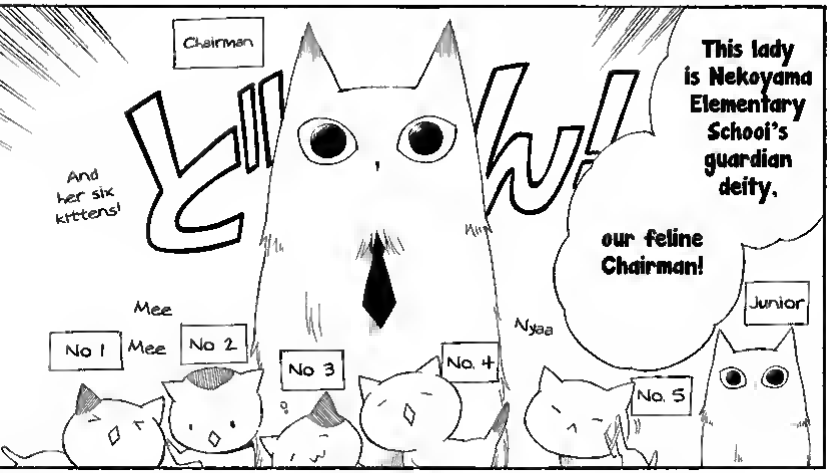
SFX. SMILE
The class representative, Terui Nao-san!
Ah
The girl who sits next to me...!
I HAVEN'T MANAGED TO TALK WITH HER YET, THOUGH...
Dur-ing class..
Um-, I don't have a textbook yet, so could you maybe let me look at yours..?
Um, hello
The reaction from the boys in class
N.. Nao is busy, so don't talk to her!
Oh, is that so?
MAYBE I CAN USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH HER...!
SFX IGNORE
NAO'S FAMILY IS REALLY AWESOME, Y'KNOW?
THEY HAIL FROM A REGION CALLED SOTO-KAWAME,
AND PRACTICE A VERSION OF THE KAGURA DANCE WHICH FOLLOWS THE TRADITION OF THE HAYACHINE KAGURA!

NICE TO MEET YOU, NAO-SAN...!
Yeah, NICE TO MEET YOU TOO!
SFX: SQUEEZE
A ha ha! THANK YOU.
Cool, right!?
Yup!
TRADITION SURE IS A NICE THING. I'M JEALOUS...!
SFX: FLINCH
I WILL BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE KAGURA TRADITION.
SO DON'T GET TOO EXCITED...!
SFX: SQUEEZE
Eh!? INHERIT THE KAGURA TRADITION...!?
Let's go to the Chairman's room!
Yeees!
SFX: CONFUSED
Eh?
GETTING TOO EXCITED?
WHAT'S THAT EVEN SUPPOSED TO MEAN...!?


Yeah.
WELL, SHE'S LIKE A GUARDIAN DEITY THAT WATCHES OVER NEKOYAMA ELEMENTARY, I GUESS!
Come to think of it...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THE CHAIRMAN?
There's a principal as well, so it's a different person, right?
For Lillian to compliment her like that...
She must truly be a venerable and beautiful person...!
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE BECAUSE SHE WAS ON MATERNITY LEAVE.
REALLY ...?
BUT SHE'S NOBLE, WISE, AND ALL AROUND WONDERFUL!
CHAIRMAN'S ROOM
I can't wait to meet her...!!
Please excuse us!
SFX EXCITED
SFX. SLIDE

Meow
Meow
Meow
Mee
Mee
A...
AN OWL!!?
Ehhh-

A ha ha!
NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED, RIGHT!?
CONFUSED
Huh?
NO... A-A CAT?
SHE'S NOT A PERSON!?
Eh-
Nyaa
Nyaa

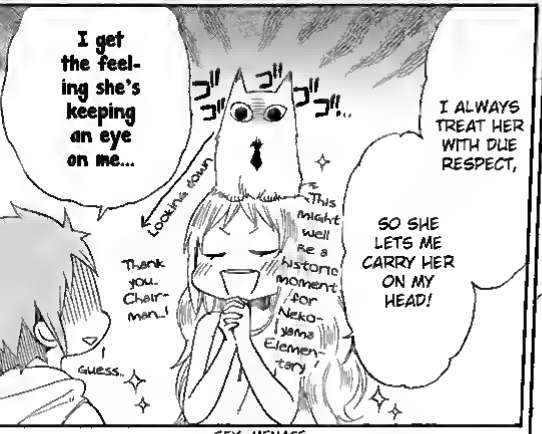

Chairman
Hello!
This lady is Nekoyama Elementary School's guardian deity,
our feline Chairman!
And her six kittens!
Junior
Nyaa
Mee
No 1
Mee
No 2
No 3
No. 4
No. 5

SFX DON

Well...
HER APPEARANCE CERTAINLY MAKES ONE THINK OF A FATEFUL ENCOUNTER ...!
There's no mistake, this must be a guardian deity who descended upon our school!!
It's like it came straight out of one of Miyazawa Kenji-sensei's works!
This cat with the appearance of an owl...
OOOH...!
OUR PRINCIPAL PICKED HER UP AS A STRAY CAT,
AND MADE HER INTO THE ICON OF OUR SCHOOL!

So, in other words,
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS JOB IS ABOUT TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS...
It's really adorable how they snuggle up to you.
Mee
Mee
I WAS A BIT WORRIED SINCE I HADN'T SEEN HER DURING THE FIRST TERM, BUT...
SEEING THAT HER FAMILY HAS GROWN MAKES ME ALL THE HAPPIER!
Nyaa
Okay ...!
TRY TOUCHING THEM!
Heeh
SO YOU LIKE CATS, HUH?
BUT, I'M REALLY GLAD THAT WE HAVE CATS IN SCHOOL...!
デレ
Mee
Mee
SFX: DERE
なでなで
モフ
モフ
モフ
さわさわ
Wooow!
Her fur is so fluffy!
SFX: PET PET PET PET
SFX: FLUFFY

SFX: FLAIL

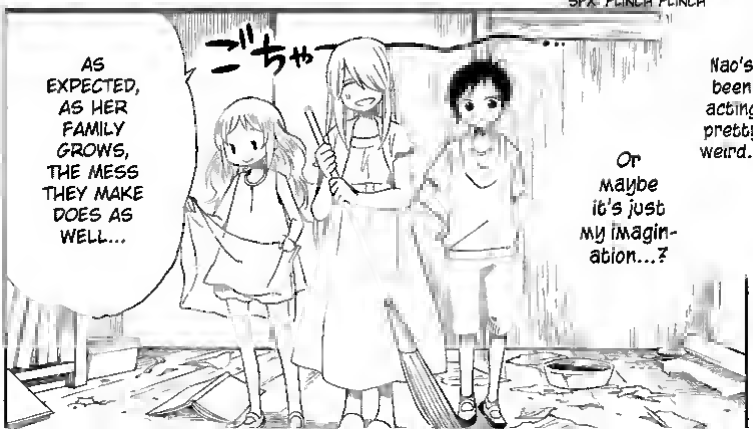

I get the feeling she's keeping an eye on me...
Looking down
Thank you, Chairman!
I guess...
This might well be a historic moment for Neko-yama Elementary!
I ALWAYS TREAT HER WITH DUE RESPECT,
SO SHE LETS ME CARRY HER ON MY HEAD!

SFX: MENACE

Ah!
YOU GOTTA GREET HER PROPERLY FIRST!
THE CHAIRMAN IS VERY STRICT WHEN IT COMES TO MANNERS!
HOW HIGH-MINDED...!
That surprised me...!

THANK YOU, NAO...
SFX: GRIN
Don't worry!
I'M FINE!
SFX: TURN

Yeeeah!
HUH-? SHE TURNED BACK TO NORMAL!?
Ah-
Well-
LET'S START WITH OUR JOB
Meeeow
Meeeow
What's with that expression!?
SFX. FLINCH FLINCH


AS EXPECTED, AS HER FAMILY GROWS, THE MESS THEY MAKE DOES AS WELL...
Nao's been acting pretty weird...
Or maybe it's just my imagination...?
SFX. MESSY

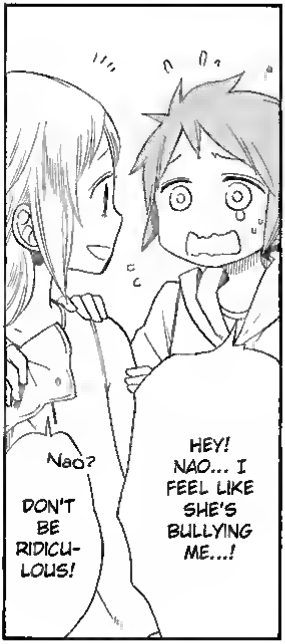
SFX: COUGH SPIT SFX: DUSTY SFX: SWOOSH SWOOSH SWOOSH SWOOSH

 SFX WIPE WIPE

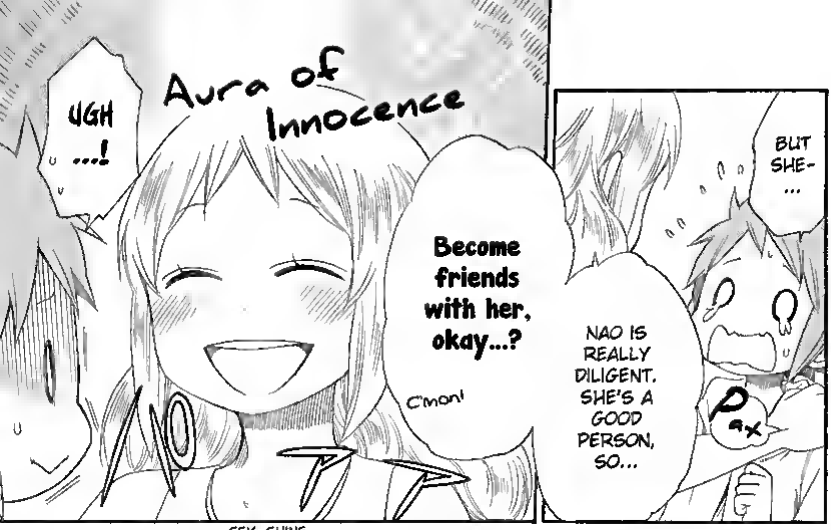
Ahhh!
MY BRAND NEW CLOTHES ...!!
RUB RUB
C... Chair-man!?
SFX GRIND GRIND GRIND
THAT'S YOUR EXCUSE FOR MAKING THIS KIND OF MIS-TAKE...!?
Sigh...
SO MY JUDGMENT MUST BE IMPAIRED FROM THE EXHAUS-TION...
I HAD KAGURA LESSONS UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT YESTER-DAY,
SFX. JUMP
SFX MESSY
SFX MESSY
ちゃっ
WELL THEN... CAN YOU CLEAN UP THE STUFF IN THIS CORNER NEXT?
OKAY...
O..
Her practice is hard, yknow?
FORGIVE HER, SEIJI!

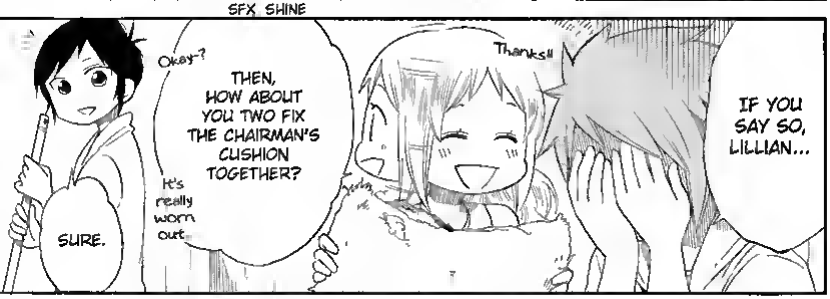
Lots of insects
Dried sardines
A grass lizard
A crow's feather
A dried up earthworm
SFX: LOOOOM
What is this?
IT SURE LOOKED LIKE SHE DID IT ON PURPOSE THOUGH...
SFX: OPEN
HIIIIII-
WHAT IS THIS!?
SFX: THUD CLATTER
Ah-!
This is... the Chairman's treasure box with emergency rations!
EHHH-!?
SFX: GLINT
SFX: SCATTER SCATTER

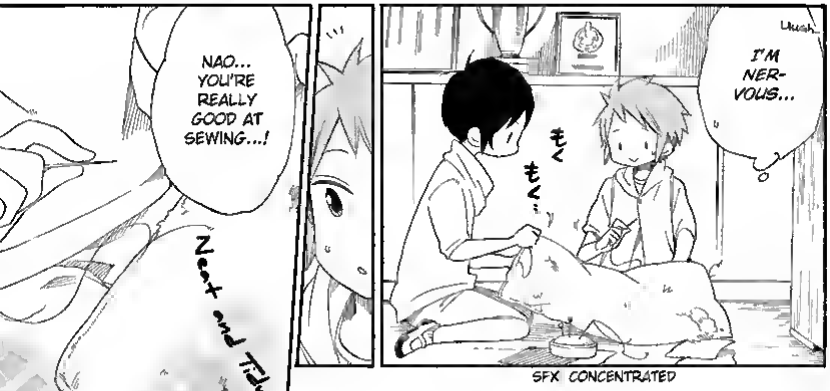
SFX: GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND



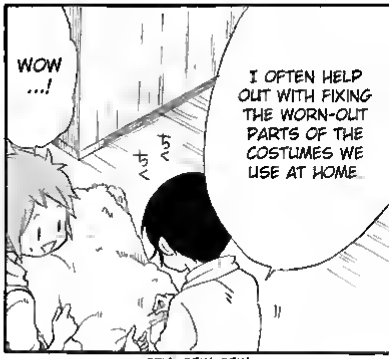
SFX: TINY


Aura of Innocence
UGH ...!
Become friends with her, okay...?
C'mon!
NAO IS REALLY DILIGENT. SHE'S A GOOD PERSON, SO...
BUT SHE-...
SFX SHINE


Okay-?
THEN, HOW ABOUT YOU TWO FIX THE CHAIRMAN'S CUSHION TOGETHER?
It's really worn out.
SURE.
Thanks!!
IF YOU SAY SO, LILLIAN...

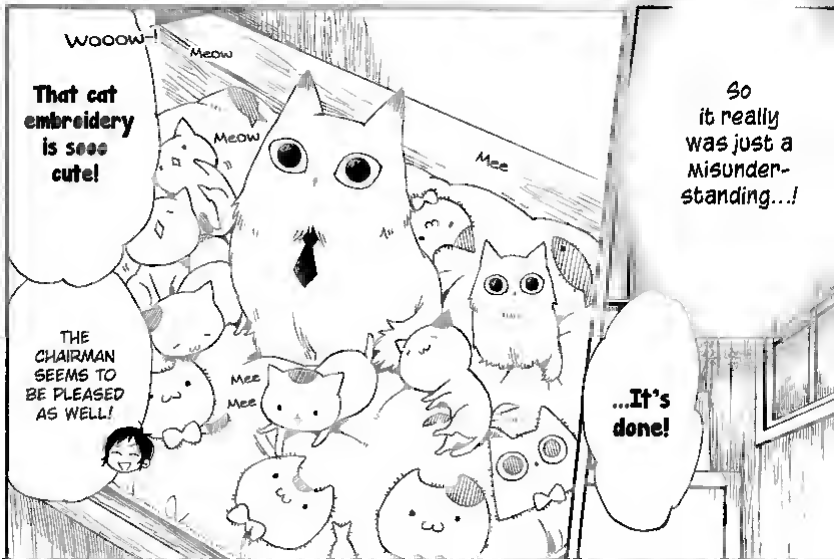

NAO... YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT SEWING...!
Neat and Tidy
もく
もく
Uuuh
I'M NER-VOUS...
SFX CONCENTRATED

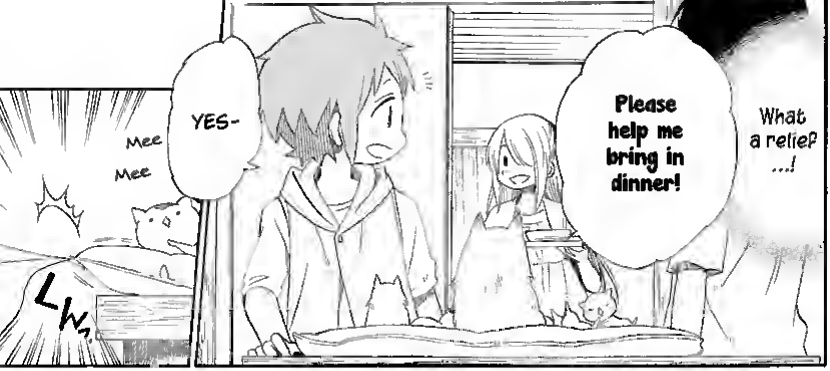
SFX. SMILE

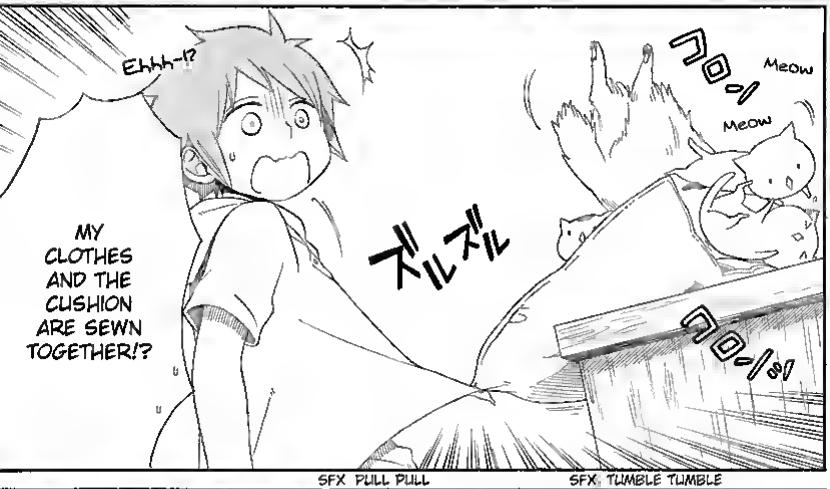


SFX. SEW SEW

Fufufu. It'll be fine I guess
Ah, but an embroidery would get in the way of their claws... So maybe an embroidered patch...?
How about an embroidery
HUH ..? SHE ISN'T BEING MEAN AT ALL....







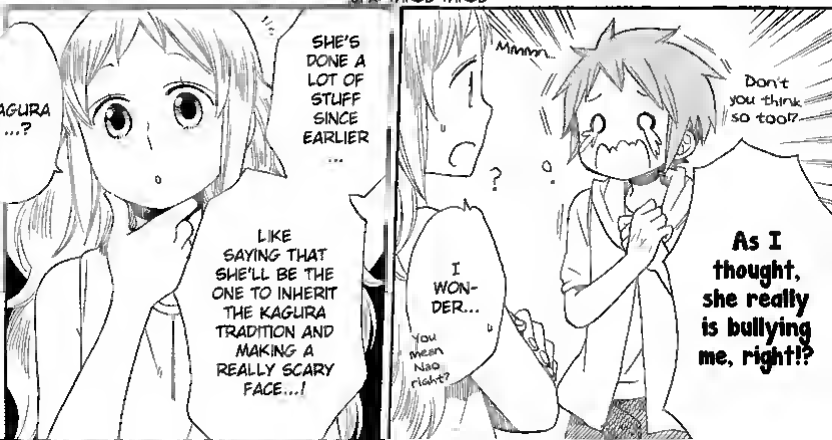
SFX: PULL PULL

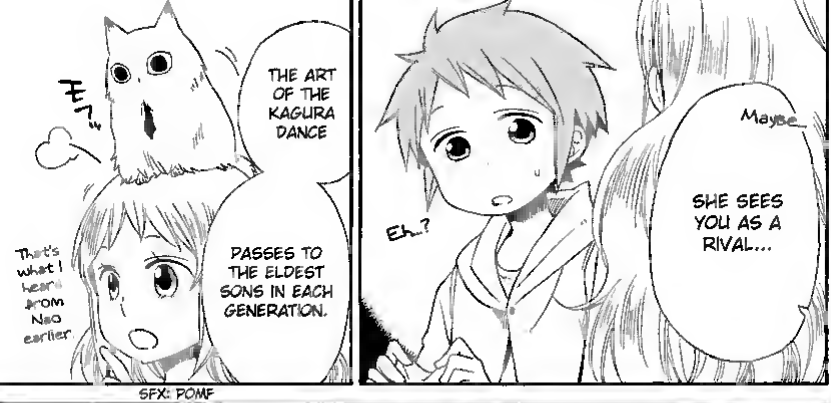
SFX: TUMBLE TUMBLE

SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH

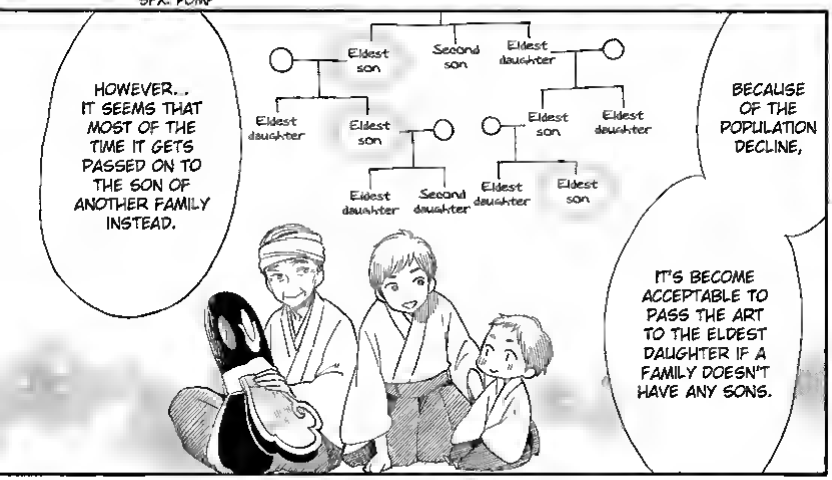
I'll tip away the water in this bucket.
WHEN IT COMES TO HER CHILDREN,
EVEN THE CHAIRMAN DOESN'T SHOW MERCY.
But it still hurts...
What a relief
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AREN'T BLEEDING...

SFX: THROB THROB


KAGURA ...?
SHE'S DONE A LOT OF STUFF SINCE EARLIER ...
LIKE SAYING THAT SHE'LL BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THE KAGURA TRADITION AND MAKING A REALLY SCARY FACE...!
Mmmm
Don't you think so too!?
I WON-DER...
You mean Nao right?
As I thought, she really is bullying me, right!?


THE ART OF THE KAGURA DANCE
PASSES TO THE ELDEST SONS IN EACH GENERATION.
That's what I heard from Nao earlier
Eh?
Maybe...
SHE SEES YOU AS A RIVAL...

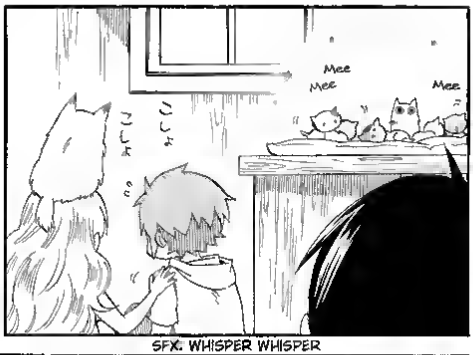
SFX: POMF


Eldest son
Second son
Eldest daughter
Eldest daughter
Eldest son
Eldest son
Eldest daughter
Eldest daughter
Second daughter
Eldest daughter
Eldest son
HOWEVER... IT SEEMS THAT MOST OF THE TIME IT GETS PASSED ON TO THE SON OF ANOTHER FAMILY INSTEAD.
BECAUSE OF THE POPULATION DECLINE,
IT'S BECOME ACCEPTABLE TO PASS THE ART TO THE ELDEST DAUGHTER IF A FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE ANY SONS.

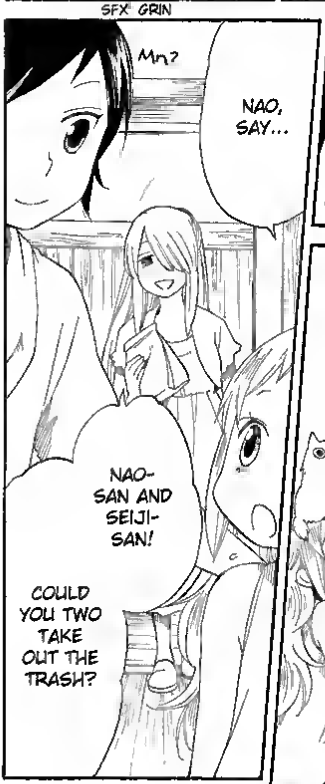
I'm Back
I SEE...
I thought it just applied to the boys of her village though...
NAO IS THE YOUNGEST OF FOUR SISTERS,
SO SHE TOLD ME SHE CONSIDERS ALL OTHER BOYS TO BE HER RIVALS.

SFX WHISPER WHISPER

SFX: GRIN



SFX: WHISPER WHISPER



SFX: GRAB

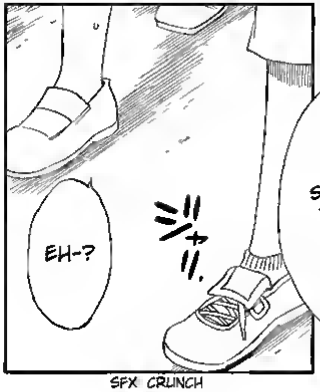
SFX: DROP

WE'LL BE CHANGING THE CHAIRMAN'S CLOTHES IN THE MEANTIME!
UMM...
ALRIGHT ...!
こくり...
.....
SFX: GULP
きらーーーん!
Woow!
They're cute! What a nice idea!
So I made some
I THOUGHT THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THE LITTLE KITTENS COLLAR TAGS TOO!
SFX. SPARKLE
...IT'D BE NICE IF THEY COULD GET ALONG...
What do you mean..?
ANYWAY, LILLIAN-SAN! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
...Huh?
They really suit them
Mee
Mee

SFX: DASH

SFX: LOOK AROUND

SFX: WIPE WIPE



SFX: CRUNCH

So I'm really being bullied, huh...
Another shock...
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING!
Stop!!
I'll dump this trash on you!
JUST YOU TRY TELLING HER ANY WEIRD STUFF,
AND I'M GONNA BULLY YOU EVEN MORE!
I... DON'T WANT TO INHERIT YOUR FAMILY'S KAGURA TRADITION, YOU KNOW ...?
-Hmph!
So you don't have to worry.
DO YOU REALLY THINK A BOY LIKE YOU COULD EVER UNDERSTAND A GIRL'S FEELINGS?
Just because I'm not a boy, it's entirely possible that my dream will be snatched away from me.
I won't ever allow that to happen.

SFX: THUD

SFX: GRAB

THIS IS... THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER MET A CHILD LIKE ME...!
SFX: SPARKLE SPARKLE SPARKLE
HAH!?
I HAVE GIRLISH HOBBIES LIKE HANDI-CRAFTS, AND BECAUSE OF THAT
I'VE BEEN MADE FUN OF A LOT... SO I UNDERSTAND THE HARDSHIPS YOU'RE FACING!
Where...
!?
NAO, YOU PRACTICE KAGURA EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A GIRL,
AND I DO HANDICRAFTS EVEN THOUGH I'M A BOY!
...-!?
DON'T YOU THINK THE TWO OF US ARE KINDRED SPIRITS...!?
DO YOU...!?
SFX SQUEEZE SQUEEZE

Has no resistance to affection from boys
Hey, CAN WE BECOME FRIENDS?
Aha haha!
Ah~ I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH BULLYING PEOPLE THOUGH!
CLOSE, TOO CLOSE!!
SFX PANIC
EH...?
SFX STOMP STOMP STOMP
Ruuuuuun!!
... OOOOOI!
SEIJI! NAOOO!
SFX STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP STOMP
EHHHHH, WHAAAAAAAT!?

Ahhhh, Junior! So that's where he was!
I dunno...
Wait-
Wait for meeee!
WHY'S THE CHAIRMAN ANGRY!?
Eh!?
WHEN DID HE!?
Ah!!
ギラリ
HYAAAAAA...!
SFX: GLINT
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
あせっ
Hurry, give him back to the Chairman!!
I can't reach him..!
あせっ
Zzzzz
And he's sleeping!!
SFX: PANIC PANIC

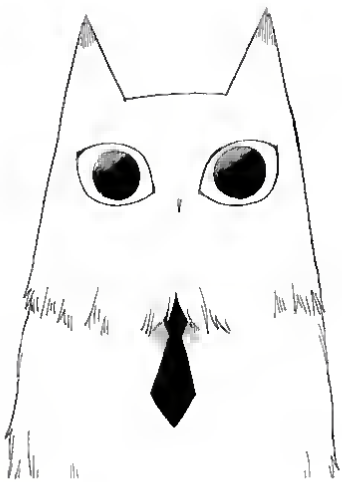
NAO!!
SFX: SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
Waaah!
ARE YOU OKAY!?
She attacked with all four paws...!
I give up...
YEAH...
SFX: TATTERED
I JUST REAPED WHAT I SOWED AFTER ALL...
Eh...
I hope... you can forgive me for today.

キッパリ
...NO,
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
Wha-
Ehhh hhh!?
SFX: BLUNT
What a relief...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY BECAME FRIENDS AFTER ALL!
SFX: PANT PANT
Here-I
RIGHT...?
JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO ENTER A MAN'S BUSINESS LIKE KAGURA,
DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO INJURE YOUR FACE...!
Well
But why!?
ガーン…
SFX: GONG

YEAH ...
Uuu...

The one everyone dragged into this
A HA HA HA!
Cut it out~!
NAO SEEMS SO CUTE ALL OF A SUDDEN!
Araaa?
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE...?

It looks like it's still a long way until I become friends with the Chairman though.
WHY ME!?
Ehhh?
Ara, ara...
ドガ!!
ドスン
ドスン
Ahh~
Sorry to you too, Chairman!!
SFX: THUD THUD THUD



ハヤチネ!

HAYACHINE!

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